

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1 and 5 and add new claims 9-12 as follows:

Listing of the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An input method using an input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, a sensor unit is formed so as to be expanded to the outside of one side of said display screen, an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given, and a controller generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, comprising the steps of:

displaying a selection display, comprising a plurality of selection items along said side of said display screen, when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit;

[[instructing one of]] highlighting said selection items when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said side on said sensor unit; and

[[instructing selection of]] selecting said [[instructed]] highlighted selection item [[when]] upon lifting the finger or the touch pen [[is released]] from contact with said sensor unit at the position of the highlighted selection item [[, wherein said selection display disappears when the finger or the touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen side]].

2. (Original) An input method according to claim 1, wherein by operating a predetermined button on a display/sensor unit of said touch panel overlapped with said display screen, an instruction corresponding to said button is generated.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) An input method according to claim 1, wherein said selection display is a menu display.

5. (Currently Amended) An input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, comprising:

a sensor unit formed so as to be expanded to the outside of one side of said display screen; and

a controller to which an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given and which generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, wherein said controller controls the display apparatus in such a manner that a selection display comprising a plurality of selection items is displayed along said side of said display screen when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit and one of said selection items is highlighted when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said side on said sensor unit, and said controller generates the control signal to instruct selection of said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit near the highlighted selection item [, wherein said selection display disappears when the finger or the touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen side]].

6. (Original) An input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein by operating a predetermined button on a display/sensor unit of said touch panel overlapped with said display screen, said controller generates an instruction corresponding to said button.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) An input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said selection display is a menu display.

9. (New) An input method according to claim 1, wherein said selection display is finished when the finger or the touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen side.

10. (New) An input apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said selection display is finished when the finger or the touch pen is moved from said sensor unit to said display screen side.

11. (New) An input method using an input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, a sensor unit is formed on said display screen, an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given, and a controller generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, comprising the steps of:

displaying a selection display, comprising a plurality of selection items on said display screen, when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit;

highlighting said selection items when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along on said sensor unit; and

selecting said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit at the position of the highlighted selection item.

12. (New) An input apparatus in which a touch panel is laminated onto a display screen of a display apparatus, comprising:

a sensor unit formed on said display screen; and

a controller to which an instruction according to a touching position of a finger or a touch pen onto said sensor unit is given and which generates a control signal on the basis of said instruction, wherein said controller controls the display apparatus in such a manner that a selection display comprising a plurality of selection items is displayed on said display screen when the finger or the touch pen is touched to said sensor unit and one of said selection items is highlighted when the finger or the touch pen is near said selection items as the finger or touch pen remains in contact with said sensor unit and is moved along said sensor unit, and said controller generates the control signal to instruct selection of said highlighted selection item upon lifting the finger or the touch pen from contact with said sensor unit near the highlighted selection item.